



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Mt. Konocti Interface Fuel Break		
PROJECT LOCATION	T13N, R8W, Sec. 5, 6, 7, 9, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28, Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian (38° 58.886, -122° 44.824)	COUNTY	Lake
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Megan Scheeline, Forester I		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit HQ 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena CA 94574	PHONE	707-967-1428

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

CAL FIRE and the Kelseyville Fire Protection District, in partnership with the Lake County Fire Safe Council, are planning a fuel reduction project in neighborhoods collectively known as the Riviera at the base of Mt. Konocti near Clear Lake. The Mt. Konocti Interface Fuel Break is a top priority project in Lake County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and in CAL FIRE's Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit Strategic Fire Plan. The fuel breaks are planned in locations where crews could more effectively and safely combat a fire and improve the effectiveness of air tanker drops. Vegetation in the project vicinity is dominated by mature, decadent brush including chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), interspersed with small to medium-sized trees such as interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), and knobcone pine (*Pinus attenuata*). Hundreds of acres of flammable vegetation are adjacent to the neighborhoods.

The fuel breaks will entail removal of vegetation in linear strips using hand crews, bulldozers, or masticators. Material cut by hand crews will be piled and burned for disposal, or may be chipped if burning is not feasible. Masticated vegetation will be left in place to decompose. Vegetation removed by bulldozers will be piled and burned for disposal. Some vegetation will be retained in a mosaic pattern in order to reduce erosion and provide wildlife habitat. Operators will take care to remove the less-desirable, more flammable brush species such as chamise, while retaining larger manzanita plants and trees such as oaks and bays. The fuel breaks will range from 100 to 300 feet wide, depending on treatment method. Areas treated by hand crews will be approximately 100 feet wide, while areas treated by equipment may extend up to 300 feet wide. On average, the fuel breaks will be approximately 200 feet wide.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land  
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)  
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species, or sedimentation to surface waters. CAL FIRE staff has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 27 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

 6/22/16  
Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection